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Rubber World

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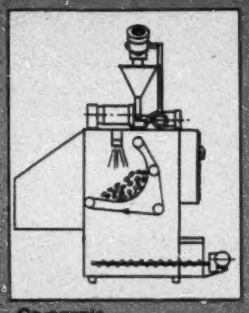

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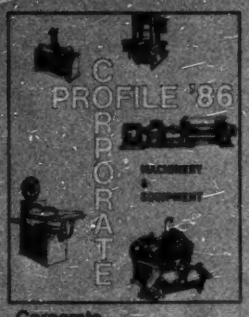

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by Jon Menough, contributing technical service editor. Processing thermoplastic elastomers is quite different than traditional rubbers and requires the rubber processor to look at the material from a totally different perspective.

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by David Crosby, Crosby & Co. If a quality department has more than one person, it should have a personal computer. Article describes what is needed by way of hardware and software.

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by Bill Stahr, Brad & Associates. A look at the recent PMA meeting and what was presented.

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by Donald N. Rales, Rales and Associates. The basic factors involved in the design of a mold for commercially producing rubber products, problems encountered, how they are handled and how the producer can aid the designer in getting a better mold design are discussed by the author.

33 Programmable controllers and dedicated microprocessors provide improved machine controls
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Cover photo courtesy of Chrysler Corp., Amplex Division

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Business Briefs

Contracts, licenses

Polysar has formed a joint venture with **Shanghai Gao Qiao Petrochemical Corp.** of China. In the first phase of the agreement Gao Qiao will use Polysar technology to triple the capacity of its 1,000 metric ton latex plant. Polysar technology will also be used to construct a 10,000 metric ton latex plant during the second phase.

PPG Industries will provide technology and equipment for a 10,000 metric ton silicas plant in China in Nanchang.

Alkar Inc. has formed a joint venture with **ROC Associates** to offer remanufactured tire presses with an advance control system.

Armature Coil Equipment, Cleveland, OH appointed Eric Sheard of **Lescon, Inc.**, Flemington, NJ distributor for its rubber and polymer stripping oven in the eastern U.S.

The General Polymers division of **Ashland Chemical** has been selected to distribute **Dow Chemical's** line of Pellethane thermoplastic polyurethane resins.

Martin Marietta and **Dow Chemical** said they will explore potential alternative business approaches in the specialty chemical field rather than pursue the previously announced effort to form a joint venture.

Dock Resins appointed **Jensen-Souders Associates**, Itsaca, IL as a sales representative.

Littleford Bros., Florence, KY was appointed by **Papenmeier GmbH** of West Germany as the exclusive representative for all parts and service requirements for its high-intensity mixers and coolers.

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Financial statements

Asarco had a net loss of $29.1 million in the first quarter on sales of $291.6 million.

Ausimont Compo has a first quarter net income of $11 million on sales of $145.2 million.

Cabot Corp. reported second quarter net income of $17.6 million on sales of $340.1 million.

Eagle-Picher announced second quarter net income was $10.1 million on sales of $172.2 million.

Englehard Corp. reported net earnings for 1985 were $42.6 million on sales of $2.2 billion.

Firestone reported net income for the second quarter

RMA rubber report through April
(figures in thousands)

	YTD 1986	YTD 1985	%change
New Rubber			
new rubber available	1,093,841	1,085,971	.7
imports	394,650	387,515	1.8
exports	132,268	120,863	9.4
apparent consumption	927,869	925,038	.3
Natural rubber			
imports	302,524	300,066	.8
exports	14,635	13,432	8.9
apparent consumption	294,472	291,043	1.2
Synthetic rubber			
production	696,991	696,466	.1
imports	92,126	87,450	5.3
exports	117,653	107,431	9.5
apparent consumption	643,415	643,995	–.1
% new rubber	69.34	69.61	
SBR			
production	281,106	300,975	–6.6
imports	37,204	28,250	31.2
exports	30,718	29,287	4.8
apparent consumption	281,379	293,566	–4.1
Nitrile			
production	20,301	21,543	–5.7
imports	3,832	4,649	–17.5
exports	3,185	2,474	28.7
apparent consumption	21,652	21,499	.7
Polybutadiene			
production	122,618	119,921	2.2
imports	18,345	22,420	–18.1
exports	8,478	7,923	7.0
apparent consumption	119,635	136,656	–12.4
Ethylene-Propylene			
production	76,832	78,167	–1.6
imports	1,511	329	359.2
exports	15,891	10,087	57.5
apparent consumption	62,668	64,410	–2.7
Butyl, Polychloroprene, Polyisoprene, silicone and other synthetic elastomers			
production	196,047	177,850	11.3
imports	31,234	31,702	–1.4
exports	69,383	57,660	2.9
apparent consumption	158,083	127,863	23.6

Business Briefs

of $12 million on sales of $868 million.

GenCorp had a net income of $37 million for the second quarter on sales of $755 million.

NL Industries posted a net income loss of $1 million with net sales of $359.2 million.

Markets, news

Although world tire demand is projected to lag behind general economic growth, many opportunities exist for innovative, aggressive companies, especially in the developing nations according to a study by The Freedonia Group, Cleveland, Ohio. The study projects gains for all-season tires, run-flat tires, the twin-tire concept and liquid injection molded tires. *World Rubber and Tire Markets* sees a shift in OEM tire demand which will mirror the geographical production of automobiles and trucks shift to countries such as Brazil and South Korea. Tire production will parallel aggregate tire demand with most of the increased supply arising from Japan, South Korea and several of the developing countries. By the late 1980s, South Korea firms will emerge as formidable competitors in the international market as technological innovations in manufacturing will allow economies of scale to be reached at less than 2,000 tires per day, compared to current levels of 6,000 tires per day. TFG sees this latter development as promoting tire manufacturing in various national markets that were previously thought to be too small. This will cause some of the majors to pull out of some markets but the tire markets will still be dominated by about 10 multinational companies. The study sees Goodyear and Michelin remaining the premier tire companies followed by Bridgestone, Sumitomo Rubber and Continental Gummi-Werke.

RMA tire report through April
(figures in thousands of units)

It's a two-way street

Keeping *you* informed means keeping *us* informed. To report to you the latest in rubber industry happenings, the editors of Rubber World rely on many sources of information. One of our most important sources is you, our reader.

We welcome and encourage your input — employe newsletters, meeting reports, equipment releases, letters to the editor, phone calls. Let us know what's happening with your company; what you're thinking. We want to hear from you.

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